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Sixty-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 53 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

South Africa:* draft resolution

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and 59/232 of 22 December 2004 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 37 (*i*) thereof,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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1. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts made by the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to strengthen the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them to continue their support for the advancement of the Centre;

2. *Also recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization to produce regionally coordinated monthly seasonal forecasts;

3. *Encourages*, in this regard, the World Meteorological Organization to strengthen the exchange of information with the relevant institutions;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and the efforts to enhance regional and international recognition and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and Government authorities to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to assure the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of Spain and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific to become new permanent members of the International Board of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, and their commitment to provide economic and technical support;

7. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular in developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include a section on the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session under the item entitled "Sustainable development".